

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**



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**To:** VFC Providers  
**From:** Elizabeth LeLacheur, Acting Section Supervisor Immunization Section  
**Date:** 12/5/2008  
**Re:** Holiday Vaccine Shipping and Hib and Influenza Vaccine Supply

**Holiday Shipping Schedule:** McKesson will not be shipping vaccine for delivery between December 22, 2008 and January 2, 2009, due to midweek holidays. Home IV Pharmacy needs to receive vaccine orders and all required reporting by Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> in order to get your vaccine delivered this year.

**Influenza Vaccine Supply:** There is influenza vaccine still available. If your clinic still has need for influenza vaccine, please place your order with the Immunization Program. If you think you will need influenza vaccine later in the season, let us know that you want your order shipped next year.

If you have Flumist that will outdate soon, there is a simple exchange process which is posted on our website: [www.immunization.mt.gov](http://www.immunization.mt.gov). Keep using the Flumist until it expires and follow the exchange process. Do not discard.

**Hib Vaccine Supply Update:** As you may have heard, Merck was not able to bring PedvaxHIB® back to market this year. They have informed us that they will not be able to supply PedvaxHIB until mid 2009. Therefore, Hib restrictions instituted last year are still in effect. The previous memo (dated 12/27/07) is available on our website [www.immunization.mt.gov](http://www.immunization.mt.gov).

**In summary, the interim recommendations for Hib vaccine are as follows:** (MMWR) Dispatch (December 19, 2007 Vol. 56) <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5650a4.htm>

- Defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster administered at age 12-15 months except for specified high-risk groups. When using ActHib, doses should be given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age.
- Certain children at increased risk for Hib disease, including children with asplenia, sickle cell disease, human immunodeficiency virus infection, and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes, and malignant neoplasms should continue to receive the full routinely recommended schedule including the 12-15 month booster dose.
- American Indian and Alaska Native children should also continue to receive the full routinely recommended schedule including the 12-15 month booster dose. It is preferred that PedvaxHIB® be used on these children, if available.

Your average monthly usage of Hib and doses on hand at the end of the previous month will be used to divide up Montana's monthly Hib allocation from CDC. Currently, a large portion of each month's allocation of federally purchased Hib vaccine is Pentacel (DTaP-IPV-Hib). Therefore, during the Hib shortage, clinics may need to use Pentacel in order to vaccinate against Hib. During the Hib shortage, Pentacel should only be used for the 1<sup>st</sup> three doses of the primary series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age.

Please know this process is difficult for everyone and we ask everyone to bear with us until Hib supplies improve. If you have any questions, please call 444-5580.